

T H E

# Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival  
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*

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To be publish'd *Weekly.*

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Saturday MAY 21. 1743. N<sup>o</sup>. 12.

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N. B. Page 37. Line 31. read *Two* first Articles. ---

Line 33. read III ARTICLE. ---

And under this *Third Article* Mr. *Robe* goes on with his  
*first Instance* as follows ---

‘ **H**E was also convinced of his Inability to help him-  
‘ self, and of his own want of Righteousness,  
‘ and that he could never work out Righteousness  
‘ for himself. He says further, That he was brought to see  
‘ the Sufficiency of Christ and his Righteousness, and that He  
‘ was always ready (which are his own Words) if he could  
‘ but trust in him.

‘ Seeing he had told me, that he had never inform’d any  
‘ Person of his inward spiritual Distress, until he got an  
‘ Outgate; I asked him, What it was that kept up his  
‘ Spirit under Fear, and Trouble of Mind continuing so  
‘ long? He answered, That when his Heart was like to  
‘ burst in Prayer, that Word in the 40th Psalm and 1st Verse,  
‘ came constantly in his Mind. *I waited patiently for the*  
‘ *Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my Cry.* And that  
‘ this encouraged him to wait for the Lord with Patience  
‘ and Hope.

‘ His first Relief came after this Manner; in the Society  
‘ for Prayer, to which he had joined himself, he inquired;

M

‘ What

‘ What was the most proper Exercise for a Person under  
 ‘ Convictions ? It was answered unto him by a judicious  
 ‘ Christian, That it was to behold the Lamb of God, which  
 ‘ taketh away the Sin of the World, which he essay’d to do.

‘ Upon the *Sabbath* after that, I gave the Marks of them  
 ‘ who have Christ form’d in them : such as having the Spirit  
 ‘ of Christ, 1 *John* 3. 24. *Saving Faith* Eph. 3. 17. *Devoting*  
 ‘ *and dedicating ourselves to the Lord.* Rom. 6. 13. Impres-  
 ‘ sions answerable to the Mediatory Actions of *Jesus Christ*.  
 ‘ Rom. vi. 4, 5, 6. Habitual Endeavour to imitate him.  
 ‘ 1 *John* ii. 6. Fervent Longings after a perfect Likeness to  
 ‘ him. *Phil.* iii. 8.--13. And *Lastly*, A high Valuation for  
 ‘ the Word and Institutions of *Jesus Christ*. He says, That  
 ‘ by the help of the Spirit he could apply them all to himself.  
 ‘ And that during the publick Prayer after Sermon, he was in  
 ‘ a Frame surprising to himself : That his whole Heart and  
 ‘ Affections, went out in closing with *Jesus Christ* ; and that  
 ‘ he was filled with rejoicing and wonder at his Love.

‘ During that Night and two Days after, he was much de-  
 ‘ jected & cast down, for fear that Things were not right with  
 ‘ him ; and lest it was not a real Work of Grace upon him.

‘ He got out of this Plunge, by the *third Verse* of the *sixth*  
 ‘ *Chapter* of *Hosea*, brought to his Remembrance while he  
 ‘ was retired. *Then shall we know if we follow on to know the*  
 ‘ *Lrd: His going forth is prepared as the Morning ; and he*  
 ‘ *shall come unto us as the Rain, as the former and latter Rain*  
 ‘ *upon the Earth.* It was some Days after that, e’re he could  
 ‘ find these Words out. He was then filled with Joy in the  
 ‘ Lord and Wonder at his Love ; and thought he could do  
 ‘ and suffer any Thing for *Jesus Christ*, who had done and  
 ‘ suffered so much for him. He came to be satisfied about  
 ‘ the Truth of the Work of Grace upon him, and to be free  
 ‘ from Doubts about his Interest : Which he says, continues  
 ‘ in some good Measure with him, and that tho’ he is some-  
 ‘ times dull, as he calls it ; yet he is not a Day to the End  
 ‘ without some reviving.

‘ The above Relation was made me by the foresaid Person  
 ‘ upon the 27th of *May* last in my Closet. His Conversation  
 ‘ appears to all, who know him, to be sober, pious, and suita-  
 ‘ ble to the *Narrative* given.

‘ The Person concerned in this *Journal*, continues, by Grace,  
 ‘ this 16th of *September* to walk tenderly, and in every In-  
 ‘ stance of Life as becometh a good Christian. *We*

*We now pass on to*

# ARTICLE IV.

Concerning them *who cried out* when they were awakened, or *made Application to me from Time to Time*, under their spiritual Distress; but were *not under any bodily Affections*.

**T**HEY are greatly mistaken, who imagine that all those who have been observably awakened in this or other Congregations have come under *Faintings, Tremblings*, or other *bodily Distresses*. These have been *by far the fewest* Number. As far as I and others can judge they have *not been one to six*. Others have indeed *cried out* when their spiritual Distress came to a Height, and some *cried not out* at all; with whom notwithstanding their inward Distress was so great, as they were obliged to apply to me, and the Ministers to whose Charge they belonged for Advice and Direction.

This Article gives Instances of *these two Sorts* as they are distinguished from the first Sort mentioned.

There was a great Variety in the Expressions uttered by them who cried out in the Publick. Their different Out-cries were such as these. *I am undone! What shall I do? What shall I do to be saved? Lord have Mercy upon me! Oh alas! O this unbelieving Heart of mine!* Some crying out bitterly without uttering any Words. Others restrained crying out while they were in Publick, who did it bitterly after they retired to their Homes, and sometimes in their Way homeward, and hereby gave no Disturbance to the publick preaching of the Word, as those disorderly Hearers (in the Judgment of the Adversaries to this blessed Work) gave to *Peter's* Sermon, according to the History in the *Second* of the *Acts*. Tho' indeed, I must acknowledge, I wou'd be glad to be disturbed every Sermon I preach by the Out-cries of all the chistleless Persons hearing me; if so were the Will of God, to give them such a Sight of their Sin and Danger, as must break out into immediate and undelayed Enquiries after the Way of Escape. Let those that never saw their own miserable Condition in the Light of a clear and full Conviction; wonder to see or hear of others so deeply distressed in Spirit, as to make such Out-cries; I do not; because, I am sure *spiritual Troubles* do not exceed the *Cause* and *Ground* of them, let them be as great and deep as they will. And if others have had the Effect of Conversion, by the Power of God's Spirit in a gentler Way; or, have had the Discovery of the Remedy as soon as the Mi-

fery, which must needs prevent a great Part of this Trouble ; let them not misjudge others, and set themselves up as *Standards* : Seeing that they are Strangers to the Doctrine of Conversion, and the Experiences of the Lord's People, who know not that God's Ways of working in this, are various, and different as to Circumstances, tho' producing the same blessed Effect.

*Under this IV Article Mr. Robe gives diverse Instances also :*

*One of which is as follows ;*

R. S. First touched with Convictions upon the Lord's Day *May* 16th. He heard Sermons upon the *Wednesday* at *Kilsyth*, and upon the *Thursday* at *Kirkintilloch* : But struggled with his Convictions until the said *Thursday-Night*, when he could hold no longer ; but getting up from his Father's Fire-side, run out to the Fields, where he cried out violently under his Distress. He came to me upon the Morning of the 21st of *May*, with great Out-cries. He had a distressing Sight of particular Sins, such as Sabbath-breaking, Cursing, Swearing, evil Thoughts. He was grieved for Sin as an Offence against God. And said with great *Earnestness*, he would give a thousand Worlds for Christ.

*May* 24th, He said, That he saw he had a vile corrupt Nature, and the Evil of despising Christ thro' Unbelief, and said, He would not for all the World not have had this uneasy Sight of Sin, nor be freed from it, until he come to Christ.

*June* 8th, and 10th, His spiritual Distress continuing, and complaining of the Hardness of his Heart, I endeavoured to instruct him in the Nature of Faith, and the Way of Salvation by Jesus Christ.

*June* 17th, He said, he was very uneasy in the Kirk upon *Tuesday* Evening, after he heard the valuable Mr. *Whitefield* preach that Day at *Kilsyth*. He said, That his Heart warmed to Jesus Christ : I asked him, Why ? He answered, Because of his Love to poor Sinners, and namely, to me the Chief of all Sinners. I enquired of him, If it was accompanied with Hatred of Sin ? He cried out, For having offended such a just and holy God, and that he hated every Thing that was offensive to him, He said, That he had essayed to close with Christ, and that his very Heart warms when he speaks of him. That, this Word came home unto him, and runs continually in his Mind, *Mat. 11. 28, 29. Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my Yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in Heart : And ye shall find rest for your Souls.*

*June*

June 24, He said, He was somewhat easier since he was last with me, and that he had endeavoured to close with a whole Christ, and counts all Things but Loss and Dunc for the Excellency of the Knowledge of Jesus Christ, and that he may win him, & that he hath now an Inclination to Christ, and that his Heart flutters in him like a Bird when he thinks of him.

July 3d, He told me, That he is now well ; for Sabbath last while a Reverend Minister was speaking of the *Prodigal Son*, and that *his Father ran to meet him* ; he thought with himself what a Prodigal he had been, and that CHRIST JESUS had come to him : He was filled with such a Sense of it, that he was like to flee from the Seat where he was sitting. He said, That he was filled with Love to CHRIST from the Sense of Christ's Love to him ; and that he had closed with Christ in all his Offices, and laid the Strefs of his whole Salvation upon him, &c. He said to me, Sir, many a Day I have had a light Heart in Sin, but now my Heart is light indeed, and my Love to Christ every Day grows.

July 13th, He said, That when he was at the *Lord's Table*, to which he was admitted the last Lord's Day, he had the greatest Comfort in closing with a whole Christ in all his Offices, and his Heart warmed to him. He had large Views of what a vile Sinner he had been, and of the Wonders, Grace and Mercy had done for him, particularly in bringing him to his holy Table. He said, he blessed the Lord with Heart and Soul, and Spirit, and all that was within him for Christ, and what he had done for him ; and that he had Fears lest he should fall away, and made Application to Jesus Christ to keep him : And that it was a joyful Sight to him, when he saw the Bread broken, a Sign of Christ's Body broken for him, which he believed, as also that his Blood was shed for him.

HAVING given our pious Readers some entertaining Accounts from SCOTLAND ; we now Return to the Christian History of NEW-ENGLAND, where we left it at the Beginning of Page 77. And as *There*, we concluded our Accounts of the *Power and Prevalence of Religion* among the *first Settlers of New-England* ; we now go on to our

II General Head, which is to represent *the great and lamented DECAY of RELIGION in the following Generations.*

And to help our Readers to a clearer View of this, we shall first communicate a short *Historical Paragraph* out of a *Sermon* not long since Preached by the Rev. Mr. Prince--as follows,

Thus



‘ Thus this wonderful Work of the Grace of God, begun  
 ‘ in *England* and bro’t over *hither*, was carried on while the  
 ‘ greater Part of the *first Generation* lived, for *about thirty*  
 ‘ *Years* : And then the *second Generation* rising up and grow-  
 ‘ ing thick on the Stage ; a little after 1660, there began to  
 ‘ appear a *Decay* : And this increased to 1670, when it grew  
 ‘ very visible and threatening, and was generally complained  
 ‘ of and bewailed bitterly by the Pious among them : And  
 ‘ yet much more to 1680, when but few of the first Genera-  
 ‘ tion remained.’

According to these Observations, our *first Extract* is from  
 the aforesaid *Election-Sermon* of the excellent Mr. *Stoughton*  
 in 1668. Page 16, &c.

‘ O what a sad *Metamorphosis* hath there of later Years passed  
 ‘ upon us in these Churches and Plantations?---Alas ! How  
 ‘ is *New-England* in danger this Day to be lost even in *New-*  
 ‘ *England* ? To be buried in its own Ruins ? How sadly  
 ‘ may we lament it that *All are not Israel that are now of*  
 ‘ *Israel* ? How is the good Grain diminished, and the Chaff  
 ‘ increased ? The first Generation have been ripened Time  
 ‘ after Time, and the most of them gathered in as *Shocks of*  
 ‘ *Corn in their Season* ; but we who rise up to tread out the  
 ‘ Footsteps of them that are gone before us, Alas ! What  
 ‘ are we ? It is a sad Name to be stiled *Children that are Cor-*  
 ‘ *rupters* ; but are we not indeed many of us *corrupted*, and  
 ‘ which is far worse *Corrupters* ? How is our *Wine mixed*  
 ‘ *with Water* ? What Coolings and Abatements are there  
 ‘ to be charged upon us in the Things that are good, and that  
 ‘ have been our Glory ? We have abated in our Esteem of  
 ‘ Ordinances, in our hungry and thirsting after the rich  
 ‘ Provisions of the House of God ; in our good Stomacks to  
 ‘ all that which is set before us upon the Table of the Gospel.  
 ‘ We have abated in our Love and Zeal, in our wise, tender  
 ‘ and faithful Management of that great Duty of mutual  
 ‘ Watchfulness and Reproof.

‘ The Death and Removal of the Lord’s eminent Servants  
 ‘ in one Rank and in another, this also hath manifested the  
 ‘ *Lye* in many of us. Whilest they lived, their Piety and Zeal,  
 ‘ their Light and Life, their Counsels and Authority, their  
 ‘ Examples and Awe kept us right, and drew us on in the  
 ‘ Ways of God, to profess and practise the best Things ; but  
 ‘ now that they are dead and gone, Ah how doth the Un-  
 ‘ soundness,

\* foundness, the Rotténness and Hypocrisy of too many amongst  
 \* us make it self known, as it was with *Joash* after the Death  
 \* of *Jebojadah*:

2. Our next Account is from the Rev. Mr. *Thomas Walley*,  
 Pastor of the Church of Christ in *Barnstable*, and one of the  
 most eminent Ministers of this Land in his Time. It is in  
 his *Sermon* preached before the *General Court* of *PLYMOUTH*  
*COLONY* on *June 1, 1669.* being the Day of *Election* of  
 Magistrates there, and published by their Order in the same  
 Year. Page 11. 'Are we not this Day making Graves for  
 ' all our Blessings and Comforts? Have we not Reason to  
 ' expect that e're long, our Mourners will go up and down  
 ' and say, *How is NEW-ENGLAND fallen! The Land that*  
 ' *was a Land of Holiness, hath lost her Holiness! That was a*  
 ' *Land of Righteousness, hath lost her Righteousness! That*  
 ' *was a Land of Peace, hath lost her Peace! That was a Land*  
 ' *of Liberty, is now in sore Bondage!*'

3. Our next Account is from the Rev. Mr. *Samuel Dan-*  
*forth*, a pious and learned Minister of *Roxbury*, in his *Sermon*  
 preached before the *General Court* of the *MASSACHUSETTS*  
*COLONY* on *May 11, 1670.* being the Day of *Election* of  
 Magistrates --- in the following Words ---

"Whether we have not in a great Measure forgot our  
 Errand into the Wilderness, is a solemn and serious En-  
 quiry. You have solemnly professed before God, Angels and  
 Men, that the Cause of your leaving your Country, Kin-  
 dred and Father's Houses, and transporting your selves with  
 your Wives, little Ones and Substance over the vast Ocean  
 into this howling Wilderness, was your Liberty to walk in the  
 Faith of the Gospel with all good Conscience, according to  
 the Order of the Gospel, and your Enjoyment of the pure  
 Worship of God according to his Institution, without humane  
 Mixtures and Impositions. Now let us consider whether our  
 ancient and primitive Affections to the Lord Jesus his glori-  
 ous Gospel remain. Let us call to Remembrance the former  
 Days, and consider, whether it was not then better with us  
 than it is now.

In our first and best Times the Kingdom of Heaven broke  
 in upon us with a holy Violence, and every Man pressed into  
 it. What mighty Efficacy and Power had the clear and faith-  
 ful Dispensation of the Gospel upon your Hearts? How  
 affectionately and zealously did you entertain the Kingdom of  
 God?

God? How careful were you, even all Sorts, young and old, high and low, to take hold of the Opportunities of your spiritual Good and Edification? ordering your secular Affairs so as not to interfere with your general Calling. How diligent and faithful in preparing your Hearts for the Reception of the Word? laying apart all filthiness and superfluity of Naughtiness, that you might receive with Meekness the engrafted Word; and purging out all Malice, Guile, Hypocrisy, Envy, and all evil Speaking; and, as new-born Babes, desiring the sincere Milk of the Word. How attentive in hearing the everlasting Gospel? Watching daily at the Gates of Wisdom, and waiting at the Posts of her Doors; that ye might find eternal Life, and obtain Favour of the Lord. Gleaning Day by Day in the Field of God's Ordinances, even among the Sheaves, and gathering up handfuls, which the Lord had let fall on Purpose for you; and at Night going Home, and beating out what you had gleaned, by Meditation, Repetition and Conference. How painful in recollecting, repeating and discoursing what you heard? Whetting the Word of God upon the Hearts of your Children, Servants and Neighbours. How fervent in Prayer to God for his Blessing on the Seed sown? O what an Esteem for Christ's faithful Ambassadors in those Days? How precious were they in your Eyes? Counting your selves happy in the Enjoyment of a pious, learned and orthodox Ministry. What ardent Desires after Communion with Christ in his Ordinances? What Sollicitude to seek the Lord after the right Order? What fervent Zeal against all Manner of Heterodoxies? What holy Endeavour to propagate Religion to your Children and Posterity? Charging them to know the God of their Fathers and serve him with a perfect Heart; publicly asserting and maintaining their Interest in the Lord and in his holy Covenant, and zealously opposing those that denied the same.

Then had the Churches Rest and were edified; walking in the Fear of the Lord, and in the Comfort of the Holy Ghost. O how your Faith grew exceedingly! You proceeded from Faith to Faith, from a less to a greater Degree, growing up in him who is your Head; and receiving Abundance of Grace and of the Gift of Righteousness. O how your Love and Charity towards each other abounded! O what Comfort of Love! what a holy Sympathy! weeping with those that wept, and rejoicing with those that rejoiced."

*(To be continued.)*